

Appl. No. : 10/719,419  
Filed : November 21, 2003

### REMARKS

In the March 22, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-3, 5-14, 17, and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,939,772 to Hurst, et al. ("Hurst"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,455,864 to Featherby, et al ("Featherby") and objects to Claims 4, 15, 16, 18, and 25, but states that Claims 4, 15, 16, 18, and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

#### Discussion of Cancellation of Claims 1, 3, 17, and 20

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejections, Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 3, 17, and 20 without prejudice herewith to speed issuance of the allowable claims. Accordingly, the rejections to Claims 1, 3, 17, and 20 are now moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any of the canceled claims in a continuation application.

#### Discussion of Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner finds that Claims 4, 15, 16, 18, and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten Claim 4 with the limitations of Claims 1 and 3, now canceled. Applicants have rewritten Claims 15, 16, and 18 each with the limitations of Claim 1. Applicants have rewritten Claim 25 with the limitations of Claim 20.

#### Discussion of Rejection of Dependent Claims 2, 5-14, 19, 21-24

Applicants have amended Claims 2, 5, 6, 10-13, 19, 21 and 24 to change dependency to an allowable base claim. Claims 7-9, 14, 22 and 23 have not been amended in this paper, but are dependent on claims that now depend on an allowable base claim. The dependent claims recite numerous additional distinctions over the cited references.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections to dependent Claims 2, 5-14, 19, 21-24 are moot in light of the patentability of their corresponding base claims, and Applicants accordingly request allowance of Claims 2, 5-14, 19, 21-24.

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### Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objections to Claims 4, 15, 16, 18, and 25 and the rejections of Claims 2, 5-14, 19, 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants further request the Examiner to allow Claims 2, 4-16, 18, 19, and 21-25 and to pass the present application to the issue process.

If there is any further impediment to the prompt allowance of the present application, Applicants request the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney of record at 310-407-3466 or at the telephone number listed below to resolve any such impediment.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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